CROSSGEN COMICS
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DEADSHOT
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MYSTIC
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CIRESS

is a world where magic dominates every aspect of daily life. For centuries, seven Guilds of magic have presided over this enchanted globe, owing much to the Eternal Spirits of their original Guild Masters. Living on as ethereal phantoms, each Eternal Spirit provided their Guild's current Master with timeless wisdom and sorcerous knowledge.

This ancient balance of power was shattered on the day Genevieve Villard was to become Master of the Nouveau Guild. At Gen's Rite of Ascension, a mysterious stranger imprinted a mystical sigil on the palm of her rebellious sister, Giselle. When the Sigil's power drew all seven Eternal Spirits into Giselle, a turbulent new era dawned for Ciress. Granted vast magical might, Giselle Villard reluctantly became the most powerful Mystic her world has ever known!

RECENTLY:

In the midst of an earth-shaking battle, Giselle defeated the Demon Queen Animora by using her sigil to drain Animora's life force. Animora's devious partner, Darrow, remains at large...

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ARE YOU HAPPY NOW?
ARE YOU?!

GISELLE!
...
...GEN...?
Oh, GEN... SHE GOT WHAT SHE WANTED, DIDN'T SHE?
SHE MADE A KILLER OUT OF ME.

NO.
IT'S NOT MURDER IF A SOLDIER DEFENDS HER COUNTRY.
ANIMORA THREATENED THE WORLD.

YOU CAME THROUGH, 'ELLE. YOU SAVED US ALL.

FWOOSH
?

Um...
YOU'RE THE MAGIC EXPERT, GEN. ARE THEY SUPPOSED TO GO UP IN SMOKE ONCE THEY'RE DEAD?
I GUESS SO. I DON'T KNOW. I'VE NEVER MET ANYTHING LIKE ANIMORA BEFORE.
HOPE I NEVER DO AGAIN.

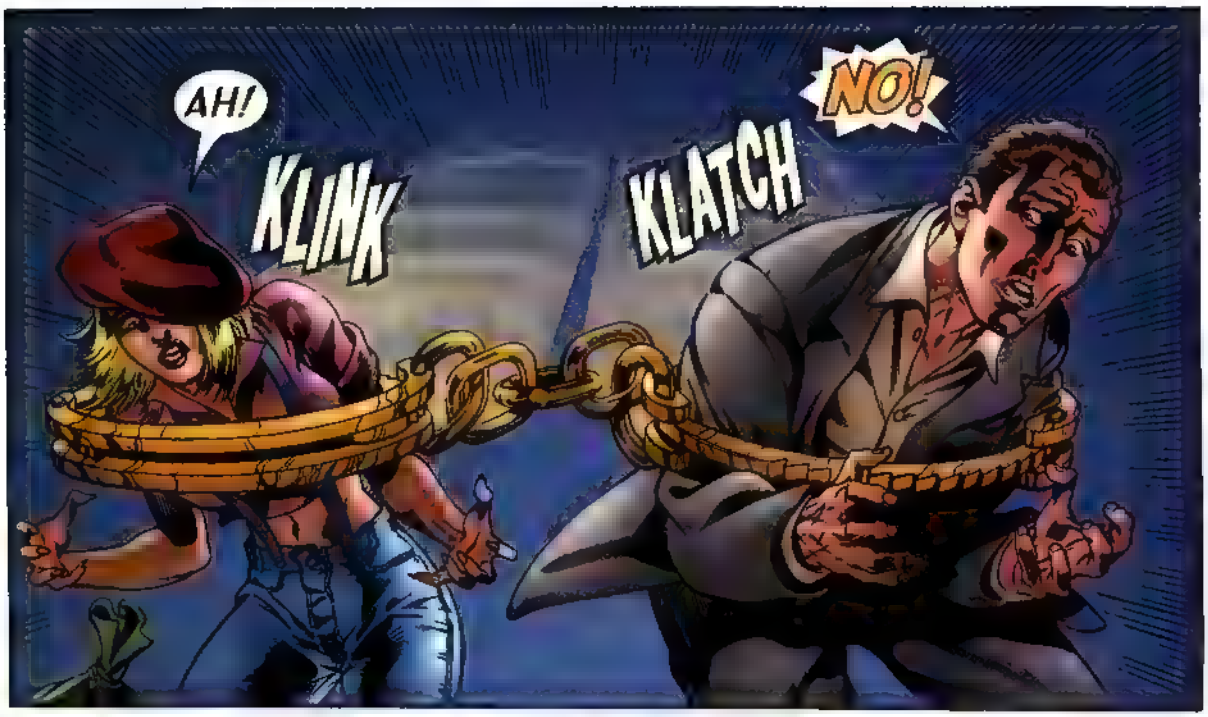
BUT THIS THING...! I THOUGHT IT WAS A CURSE.
I'M STARTING TO SEE THAT IT'S A GIFT.
IF IT KILLED THE DEMON QUEEN, JUST THINK OF THE GOOD WE COULD DO WITH SUCH POWER.
MAYBE THIS IS WHAT FATE ALWAYS INTENDED FOR ME: TO HELP YOU MASTER THE SIGIL...
FOR YOU AND I TO SHARE THE RESPONSI--
I DON'T THINK SO, GENEVIEVE. SORRY.
YOU CAN ALREADY DO PLENTY OF GOOD AS GUILD MASTER.
WHATEVER I'M MEANT TO DO WITH MY LIFE, THAT'S FOR ME TO FIGURE OUT MYSELF.

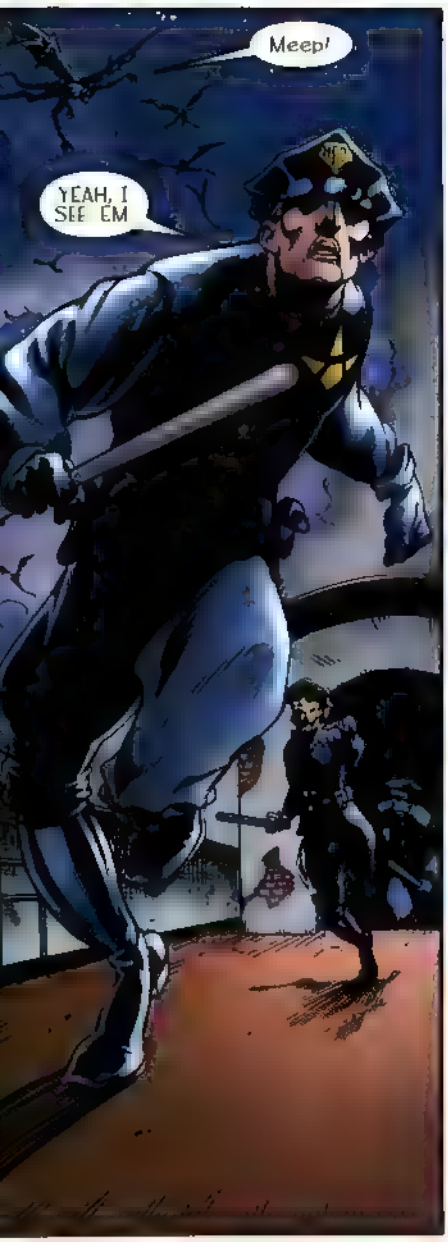
JUST... JUST LEAVE ME *ALONE* FOR A WHILE...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? I DIDN'T *SINGE* YOU, DID I?
NO, DARROW. YOUR TIMING WAS IMPECCABLE. DO YOU THINK THEY *BOUGHT* IT?
YES. THE TELEPORT EFFECT BLENDED WITH THE COLOR OF THE FLAME SPELL. I EVEN LEFT A SCORCH-MARK ON THE GROUND SHAPED LIKE YOU--
PLEASE. EVEN WHEN I'M FEELING GOOD, I CAN'T STOMACH YOUR BOASTING...
WHAT ABOUT GISELLE? SHOULDN'T WE FOLLOW HER?
NO NEED. SHE'S RIGHT *HERE*, WHENEVER I NEED HER.
FOR NOW, LET HER GO *HOME*...

"...HOME TO HER QUAINT LITTLE CITY, WHERE THE NEIGHBORS ARE FRIENDLY...
"...AND THE STREETS ARE SAFE."
Meep! Meep!
Meep!
WE'RE LOSING 'EM!
S'OKAY...

"...SARGE BLOCKED OFF THE BACK OF THE ALLEY."
SETTLE DOWN, KIDS. I'M NOT MUCH FOR EXERCISE. SO WHAT SAY WE CUT OUT THE RUNNIN' AND JUST HAND OVER THE BAG, NICE AND SLOW?
BUTCH...?
SORRY
POOF
WING IT, SMALL FRY! THAT SOUNDED SHORT-RANGE-- THEY'LL PORT BACK IN NEARBY...

Meep! Meep! Meep!
POOF
YOU HEARD THE LITTLE GUY! MOVE IT!
ZIIIP
WE SHOULD SPLIT UP. I'LL--


AH!
KLINK
KLATCH
NO!


Meep!
YEAH, I SEE 'EM

OKAY, SO WE *LET* THEM ARREST US. BIG DEAL. ONCE THIS COMES TO *TRIAL* -

DJA HEAR *THAT*, TIMMONS? THEY THINK WE'RE HAULIN' 'EM *IN*
CAN'T BE *TOO* BRIGHT, CONSIDERIN' WHO THEY'RE STEALIN' *FROM*
SPEAKIN' OF WHICH, MAYBE YOU TWO CAN EXPLAIN IT TO THE *DETECTIVE*

YVES MANION, NOUVEAU P.D. BUNCO SQUAD.
I BELIEVE YOU HAVE SOMETHING THAT DOESN'T *BELONG* TO YOU
HERE YA GO, SIR

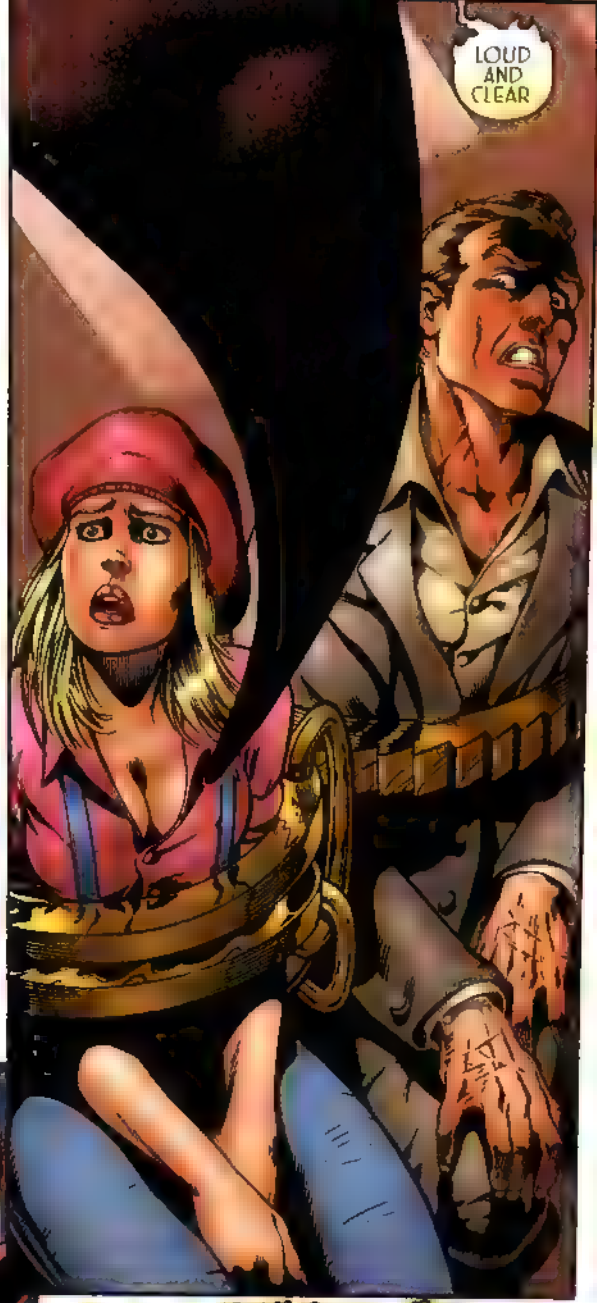
Hey!
GOOD EVENING, MISTER TINKLEBRIAR. ARE YOU GENTLEMEN OKAY?
It was a rough ride, but we'll be fine.

GOOD, GOOD. BECAUSE IF MY BEST EARNERS HAD BEEN HURT OR GONE MISSING. WELL, LET'S JUST SAY THERE'D BE *HELL* TO PAY.
THE *PIXIE DUST LAB.*
THEY CHURN OUT THAT POISON FOR *YOU, ?!*
BUT ALL OF THESE COPS CAN'T BE IN YOUR POCKET

IT'S PRETTY DAMN OBVIOUS THEY *CAN*, NELLY!
FACE IT: YOUR BLEEDING-HEART FRIENDS SENT US TO *LIBERATE* THE WRONG FRIGGIN *PIXIES!*
NO, THEY'LL COME *LOOKING* FOR US! DO YOU *HEAR* ME, DETECTIVE? THIS WON'T END WITH THE TWO OF US!
YOU'RE UP AGAINST THE *PETE* NOW!
PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL TREATMENT OF FAIRY-FOLK"? THAT'S IT, BOYS--MY GOOSE IS *COOKED!*
HEAVEN HELP ME, I SWORE I'D *NEVER* DO THIS, BUT
WHAT DID YOU JUST *SUMMON* ?

BASH
BUTCH WHAT HAVE YOU DONE ?
DEMON OF THE BRIMSTONE PLANE .
YOU ARE HERE AT MY BIDDING!
PROTECT ME FROM MY ENEMIES!
YEAH, YEAH I KNOW THE DRILL
SAY AREN'T YOU ONE OF DUKE ABADDON'S BOYS?

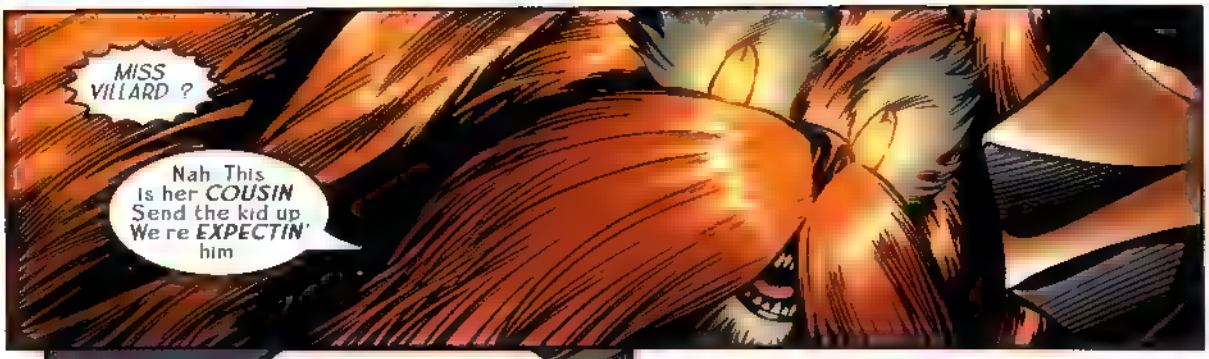
Um YEAH...?
I'M DETECTIVE MANION
YOU *TELL* YOUR BOSS NEXT TIME YOU SEE HIM THE *THING* I DID FOR HIM WHEN HIS *NEPHEW* WENT MISSING LAST YEAR ?
TELL HIM YOU *SETTLED* THAT DEBT TONIGHT YOU *GET* ME?


LOUD AND CLEAR

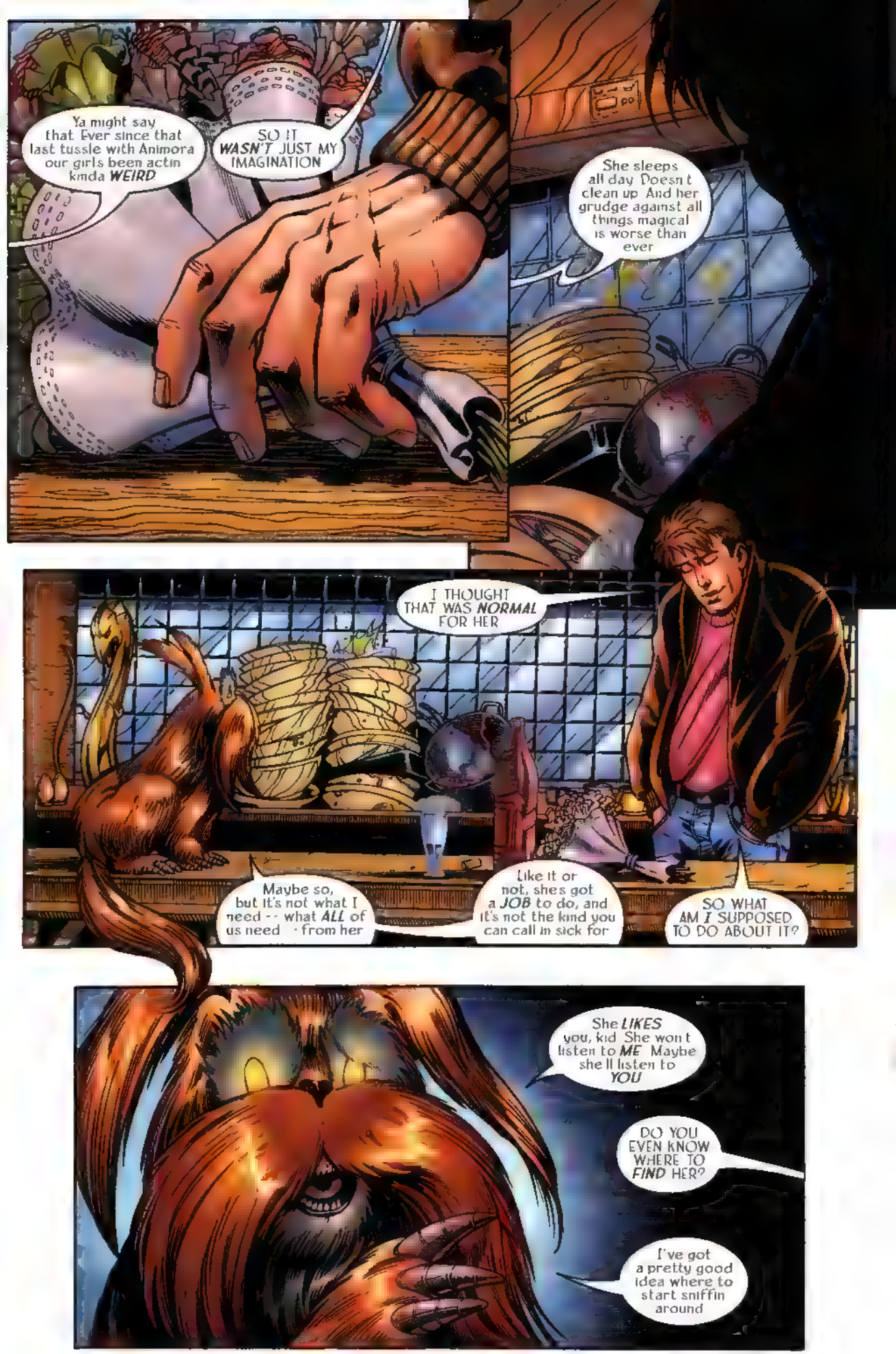
HE'S A FRIEND OF THE *DUKE* YOU KNOW HOW IT IS

AAAIIIEEEEEE
SORRY, PAL BUT YOU'RE OUT OF LUCK--

MISS VILLARD LEFT EARLIER DECKED OUT LIKE SHE'S BACK ON THE OLD NIGHT-OWL CIRCUIT, TOO
ARE YOU SURE? WE, um WE HAVE A DATE
I'LL BUZZ HER PLACE, JUST TO BE SURE, BUT –
BZZZZZ
HELLO?


MISS VILLARD ?
Nah. This is her COUSIN Send the kid up We're EXPECTIN' him

FUNNY, BUT I DIDN'T EVEN ANNOUNCE YOU WERE DOWN HERE
YEAH GUESS I WAS EXPECTED
Hiya, Thierry! Boy, am I glad to see you!
WHAT'S WRONG? IS GISELLE IN TROUBLE?


Ya might say that Ever since that last tussle with Animora our girls been actin kinda WEIRD
SO IT WASN'T JUST MY IMAGINATION
She sleeps all day Doesn t clean up And her grudge against all things magical is worse than ever
I THOUGHT THAT WAS NORMAL FOR HER
Maybe so, but it's not what I need -- what ALL of us need - from her
Like it or not, shes got a JOB to do, and it's not the kind you can call in sick for
SO WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO ABOUT IT?
She LIKES you, kid She won t listen to ME Maybe she ll listen to YOU
DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHERE TO FIND HER?
I've got a pretty good idea where to start sniffin around

Y KNOW, FOR SOMEONE WHO ALWAYS SAID SHE HATED MAGIC, GISELLE SURE PULLED A DISAPPEARING ACT ON *US*.
WELL, WHAT WOULD *YOU* DO IF YOUR SISTER SUDDENLY BECAME *GUILD MASTER?*
Oh, I DON'T KNOW. BECOME AMBASSADOR TO THE TANTRIC LANDS?
OKAY, OKAY SO SHE'S RIDING THAT GRAVY TRAIN ALL THE WAY TO THE END OF THE LINE. SHE COULD'VE INVITED HER *FRIENDS* ALONG

ACTUALLY, THE GUILD WOULDN'T KNOW A GOOD TIME IF IT JUMPED UP AND BIT 'EM IN THE BACKSIDE
THAT'S RIGHT, YOU LOUNGE LIZARDS, I'M BACK!
HALE AND HEARTY, AND READY TO PARTY!
GISELLE!

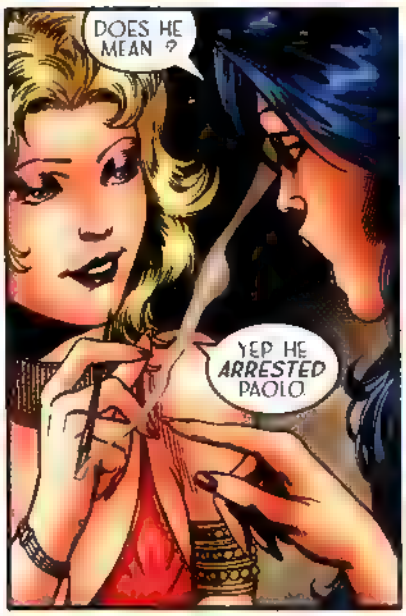
MILADY
SMAK
GUY, YOU CHARMER

GISELLE, C'MON! YOU GOTTA MEET MY NEW SWEETHEART!

YVES MANION. PLEASURE TO MEET YOU, GISELLE LORRAINE CURSES YOUR ABSENCE SO MUCH, I FIGURE YOU MUST BE SOMETHING SPECIAL

Ooh, THIS ONE HAS MANNERS, LORRAINE. NOTHING LIKE -- WHAT WAS HIS NAME? PAOLO? YOU KNOW, THE ONE WHO GOT BUSTED—
ANCIENT HISTORY AND WATCH WHATCHA SAY MANION'S A COP.

IT'S ALL RIGHT I KNOW ALL ABOUT IT. HOW'D YOU THINK LORRAINE AND I MET?


DOES HE MEAN ?
YEP. HE ARRESTED PAOLO

WHEN THE GOOD DETECTIVE CAME TO QUESTION ME, I COULD SEE RIGHT AWAY IT WAS TIME TO TURN A NEW LEAF

I KNOW A SPEAKEASY THAT'S JUST STARTING TO *JUMP* ABOUT NOW
HANG ON
I HAVE TO HIT THE CROCK O' GOLD FIRST
TOP YE THE EVENIN TO YEH! WELCOME TO BLARNEY BANK
PLEASE BE GIVIN YER *NAME,* ME WEE BONNY LASS
GISELLE VILLARD
AND YER SECRET WISH IF YEH PLEASE?
I WANT A *PONY*

NAE, LASS, I DON'T THINK THAT'S REALLY YER WISH AT ALL—
IT *WAS* BACK WHEN I *OPENED* THE ACCOUNT, MY WEE, BONNY *BONEHEAD!* JUST GIVE ME MY *MONEY* AND SPARE ME THE SMALL TALK!
WHEREVER WE'RE GOING, GUY, THERE BETTER *NOT* BE ANYTHING MORE MAGICAL THAN A BOTTOMLESS BOTTLE OF BUBBLY!
WHOA, ANNETTE! YOU SURE YOU SHOULD BE DRIVING?

TAKE THIS BACK TO THE SQUAD ROOM AN' RUN THE TAG NUMBER.
I WANNA KNOW WHO THAT FANCY TWIST IS, AN' HOW SHE'S CONNECTED TO THAT DIRTBAG MANION.
Meep!
PARTY'S ALMOST OVER FER THEM YEGS...

The CrossGen Universe created by Mark Alessi & Gina M. Villa
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Dave LANPHEAR with TROY PETERI LETTERERS
Fabrizio Fiorentino wishes to dedicate this book to God.

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